

Journal of Parallel and Distributed Computing, Volume 64, Issue 3, March 2004, Pages 427-446

Steve C. Chiu, Wei-keng Liao, Alok N. Choudhary and Mahmut T. Kandemir Abstract

Processor-embedded disks, or smart disks, with their network interface controller, can in effect be viewed as processing elements with on-disk memory and secondary storage. The data sizes and access patterns of today's large I/O-intensive workloads require architectures whose processing power scales with increased storage capacity. To address this concern, we propose and evaluate disk-based distributed smart storage architectures. Based on analytically derived performance models, our evaluation with representative workloads show that offloading processing and performing point-to-point data communication improve performance over centralized architectures. Our results also demonstrate that distributed smart disk systems exhibit desirable scalability and can efficiently handle I/O-intensive workloads, such as commercial decision support database (TPC-H) queries, association rules mining, data clustering, and two-dimensional fast Fourier transform, among others.

3. Supporting adaptive routing in IBA switches • ARTICLE

Journal of Systems Architecture, Volume 49, Issues 10-11, November 2003, Pages 441-456

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J. C. Martínez, J. Flich, A. Robles, P. López and J. Duato SummaryPlus | Full Text + Links | PDF (407 K)

InfiniBand is a new standard for communication between processing nodes and I/O devices as well as for interprocessor communication. The InfiniBand Architecture (IBA) supports distributed deterministic routing because forwarding tables store a single output port per destination ID. This prevents packets from using alternative paths when the requested output port is busy. Despite the fact that alternative paths could be selected at the source node to reach the same destination node, this is not effective enough to improve network performance. However, using adaptive routing could help to circumvent the congested areas in the network, leading to an increment in performance.

In this paper, we propose a simple strategy to implement forwarding tables for IBA switches that supports adaptive routing while still maintaining compatibility with the IBA specs. Adaptive routing can be individually enabled or disabled for each packet at the source node. The proposed strategy enables the use in IBA of any adaptive routing algorithm with an acyclic channel dependence graph. In this paper, we have taken advantage of the partial adaptivity provided by the well-known up*/down* routing algorithm. Evaluation results show that extending IBA switch capabilities with adaptive routing may noticeably increase network performance. In particular, network throughput improvement can be, on average, as high as 66%.

A distributed, hardware reconfigurable and packet switched real-time control and data acquisition system • ARTICLE

Fusion Engineering and Design, Volume 60, Issue 3, June 2002, Pages 443-448 A. J. N. Batista, A. Combo, J. Sousa and C. A. F. Varandas Abstract

The architecture of a synchronized event-based control and data acquisition system that aims to improve significantly the performance of actual systems is presented. The design explores recent developments in data transport, signal processing and system synchronization. Data transport between the acquisition, processing and storing devices and at backplane level will be performed by InfiniBand, a low latency packet switched network standard. Data processing algorithms will be performed in a mixture of digital signal processors and reconfigurable field programmable gate arrays. Both devices will be programmed from a descriptive high-level mathematical language. Acquisition synchronization, data stamping and event management will be performed through a specialized low latency synchronous optical network for the time critical signals.

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